

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The specification has been conformed to correspond to the preferred format for U.S. patent applications as required in the Office Action, and a Substitute Specification and Comparison Copy are submitted herewith.

The drawings have been revised as required in the Office Action by showing the housing 17 (referred to in paragraph 0037 of the Substitute Specification) and the switching arrangement 37 (referred to in paragraph 0048).

Claims 1-39 remain pending in this application.

As to a clearer illustration of the front screen, applicants have amended the drawings by schematically showing therein the housing of the scanner to which housing screen 20 is mounted. This clarification of the drawings also illustrates how the front screen separates the transmission unit, reception unit and light deflection unit from the surroundings of the laser scanner, now recited in the claims as the "outside" of the scanner.

Claims 2-39 were rejected under Section 112 because they recite a scanning "apparatus", whereas claim 1 recites a "scanning device". Claim 1 has been amended to conform it to the preamble of all dependent claims, each now reciting a "laser scanning apparatus". In view thereof, applicants request the retraction of this rejection of claims 2-35.

Claim 1 was rejected under Section 112 for a variety of informalities. Claim 1 has been carefully reviewed and revised to provide proper antecedent basis for all terms used in this and its dependent claims.

Similarly, claims 3, 26, 27, 32, 33 and 36 rejected for using "in particular" as being indefinite have been amended by deleting the objectionable wording.

In view of the above-discussed changes to the claims, made for purposes of clarification unrelated to patentability concerns, applicants request the retraction of all Section 112 rejections.

In regards to the objections that the drawings do not show claimed features such as the fixed diaphragm, shutter arrangement, diffractive optical element, polarization filters and grid/diaphragm structures, applicants point out that the recited features are merely specific details of the operative switching arrangement 37 shown in the drawings. Thus, reference numeral 37 can be viewed as being directed to the overall switching arrangement as well as the specific elements used thereon, which are difficult to show in the drawings. In view thereof, applicants request that the substitute drawing sheets submitted herewith be entered in lieu of the drawings as originally filed, and that the drawing objection be retracted.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance, and a corresponding notification at an early date is requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at (415) 576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,



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PATENT

Amendments to the Drawings:

Attached are replacement sheets for drawing Figs. 1-4. Figs. 1, 3 and 4 have been amended by showing therein housing 17. Fig. 3 has further been amended by showing therein switching arrangement 37.

No new matter has been introduced.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets